Witness Ignored In King Slaying, Ragsdale Claims

Duncan Ragsdale, Republican candidate for the Eighth Congressional District, charged yesterday the House Assassinations Committee has no intention of calling a key witness in its investigation of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The witness, Solomon Jones, was Dr. King's driver on April 4, 1968, the day of the assassination.

"They never intend to call Solomon Jones because his testimony totally destroys the committee's theory that James Earl Ray shot King," Ragsdale said. Jones claims to have seen a man sneaking away through bushes from the rear of the boarding house from which the shot was fired which killed Dr. King.

Rep. Harold Ford of Memphis, Ragsdale's opponent, is a member of the committee. He termed the whole affair a political stunt just a few days before the election.

Ragsdale termed the committee's work "another damn cover-up, and Harold Ford knows this. Because of his part in the cover-up he's an accessory after the fact of murder."

Ragsdale and Mark Lane, Ray's attorney, visited the scene of the killing at the Lorraine Motel yesterday but Jones was unable to accompany them. He is in the Shelby County Jail.

The Commercial Appeal Memphis, Saturday, November 4, 1978